DATA CHARGING SYSTEM, CONTENT GENERATOR, DATA CHARGING APPARATUS, AND DATA CHARGING METHOD

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention is directed to a system and method of charging the user for his/her use of digital contents in an easy and reliable manner. More particularly, the present invention provides a server machine 16 generates digital contents and supplies them to a client machine 10. When it receives payment for the use of the contents, it writes charging data containing recognition data, count data, etc. into an IC card, which is inserted into the card reader of the client machine 10. The client machine 10 compares recognition data or the like extracted from the IC card with those from the digital contents. When a match is found, the client machine 10 embeds or detects a digital watermark in the digital contents. In this way, the user is charged for the use of digital contents on a pay-per-use basis according to the usage count, usage time, etc.